

Canada

Nature-based Solutions Profile



Climate & Geography

Canada, the second-largest country in the world by total area, is located on the North American continent. Owing to its extensive latitudinal range, the country experiences a diverse geography, including the Rocky Mountains, the Prairies, Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Lowlands, and the Arctic Tundra. The climatic conditions range from the relatively mild climate along the Pacific coast to more pronounced seasonal variations along the Atlantic coast, with notable regional disparities in both temperature and precipitation patterns across the nation. Oceanic currents significantly influence Canada's climate, with the warm waters of the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean and the Alaska Current in the Pacific Ocean playing key roles in shaping regional climatic characteristics. [\(World Bank, 2020\)](#)

Policies incorporating NbS

Canada has included NbS in national legal, policy and planning frameworks concerning climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation — both in documentation submitted under the Rio Conventions and in institutional arrangements and governance at the national level.

Submitted under the Rio Conventions

Canada's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution [\(UNFCCC, 2025\)](#)

Canada's NDC has undergone four updates since its first submission in 2015. The latest NDC, submitted in 2025 in line with the Paris Agreement requirements, outlines Canada's commitments towards the global climate effort for the next decade. The NDC highlights the interconnectedness of the climate and biodiversity crises. Furthermore, the NDC states the need for an integrated approach, including NbS, to the triple planetary crisis, which increases the resiliency of society at large, including local communities and Indigenous peoples.

Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy [\(CBD, 2024\)](#)

Submitted in 2024, Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy charts a path for how Canada will implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The Strategy outlines how nature-based climate solutions, including natural infrastructure, and protecting high-integrity, carbon-rich ecosystems, can benefit both nature and climate.

Canada's UNCCD Report [\(UNCCD, 2022\)](#)

Canada's report delineating national progress towards achieving land degradation neutrality targets illustrates how different forms of NbS, including restoration and sustainable land management, are being used to combat land degradation and assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services.

Key Domestic Policies

Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan ([ECCC, 2022](#))

A legally mandated roadmap to reduce GHG emissions 40–45% below 2005 levels by 2030. NbS are highlighted as cost-effective tools to store carbon through peatland restoration, tree planting, and improved land-use practices.

Canada's National Adaptation Strategy ([ECCC, 2023](#))

The National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) identifies NbS as a primary pillar for building climate resilience in conjunction with protecting and restoring nature and biodiversity. It promotes restoration of wetlands, floodplains, forests, and other natural systems to protect communities from climate hazards such as flooding, heat, and wildfires.

Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change ([ECCC, 2016](#))

Canada's first national climate strategy to meet Paris Agreement targets. It acknowledges the role of NbS approaches for climate action across ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands — encouraging actions like afforestation and wetland protection.

NbS Finance

Canada has made substantial investments in NbS both nationally and internationally, with a strong focus on integrating action across climate, nature, and people.

Domestically, programmes support carbon sequestration, biodiversity restoration, and climate resilience, while actively engaging Indigenous communities and local stakeholders. Internationally, Canada's climate finance funds ecosystem-based adaptation in vulnerable regions, promoting sustainable development, gender equity, and nature protection. Across both spheres, Canada's NbS investments aim to deliver co-benefits for ecosystems, climate mitigation and adaptation, and social well-being.

Domestic Financing

Canada's flagship NbS investment programme — [Natural Climate Solutions Fund \(2021-2031\)](#), totaling over \$5 billion — is designed to enhance carbon sequestration and biodiversity while supporting climate adaptation. It includes a Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, with a focus on protecting and restoring carbon-rich ecosystems like wetlands, grasslands, and forests, and emphasises partnerships with Indigenous organisations and local stakeholders. Furthermore, it includes the 2 Billion Trees Programme, with a goal of Planting 2 billion trees to absorb carbon dioxide, restore habitats, and increase forest cover nationwide. Moreover, the third main investment arm is the Agricultural Climate Solutions Programme, supporting the adoption of beneficial management practices on farms to improve soil carbon storage and climate resilience.

International Financing

Canada pledged **\$5.3 billion in international climate finance** over five years (2021-2026), with 20% of funding going towards NbS. Key components include support for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for nature-positive projects in developing countries that build climate resilience through mangrove restoration, agroforestry, and coastal defences. Additionally, Canada funds bilateral projects in vulnerable regions globally, including initiatives on community-led forestry, watershed restoration, and sustainable agriculture, with a focus on gender equality and Indigenous inclusion.

Canada has also announced increased funding for biodiversity and NbS at global summits. Over **\$350 million committed** at CBD COP15 in Montreal for international nature protection and implementation of the KMGBF, including targeted support for forest and wetland restoration, Indigenous stewardship, and carbon sinks in tropical regions.

This nature-based solutions (NbS) profile provides a summary of the available information on NbS-related policies, financing, and governance in the context of Canada. It has been compiled using data from peer-reviewed academic literature, official government publications, and documentation produced by international non-governmental organisations. This profile is not intended to be exhaustive, and readers are encouraged to consult additional sources for more comprehensive information. Profiles will be updated by the ENACT Secretariat in collaboration with the ENACT partner on an annual basis to ensure information remains current.

NbS Governance

A core governance principle for Canada at the national level is partnership with Indigenous Peoples, as rights holders and key leaders in the stewardship of natural systems, including through Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. Furthermore, NbS implementation is decentralised, relying on collaboration with provinces, municipalities, NGOs, and landowners, to ensure locally grounded, ecosystem-specific solutions ([VNR, 2023](#)).

Internationally, Canada's governance approach prioritises policy coherence, aligning NbS investments with international commitments on climate and nature while promoting equity and human rights. A strong focus is placed on locally-led adaptation, Indigenous knowledge, and gender-responsive programming, ensuring that NbS deliver social as well as environmental benefits. Canada's international governance model reflects its broader commitment to inclusive, sustainable, feminist and nature-positive global development ([GAC, 2025](#)).



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